



May 14, 2015

FAC Spotlight: What do Music and Fire Have in Common?

Dept. of Revenue's Anthony Beckley

Music and fire have one thing in common – Anthony Beckley with the Dept. of Revenue who also happens to be a DJ and a volunteer firefighter.

When asked how in the world do you have two extremely diverse careers outside of your state government career, Anthony said it's pretty simple, really.

"My first love is music and I always went around as a kid playing music on all sorts of things, even cans."

As for firefighting, that interest began early as well.

"The fire department was down the street from my grandmother's house. I'd hang around all the time and eventually became a junior fire fighter at 16. Today, I'm a sergeant and am on duty two nights a week."

Music, though, has brought Anthony in contact with some famous people along the way and opened some interesting doors. DJing gives him wonderful opportunities to play music for all sorts of people at all kinds of events.

On the first Saturday in May this year, he was on board the Governor's Derby Train spinning tunes to ramp up the mood for the fastest two minutes in sports.

"I've been DJing for 28 years and this makes the second governor I've played for," said Beckley. "I once played a Christmas party for Governor Brereton Jones. The Derby train was a fun experience. The people were great and I got them up dancing!"

Beckley goes by "DJ Dr. Smurf" and was 18 when he started playing in local clubs in Shelbyville. He had to have his mother's permission since he was under 21. His DJ name came about because he loved the Smurfs TV show and he noticed they didn't have a doctor.

"Everyone needs a doctor, so I decided that'd be my DJ persona—Dr. Smurf."



Beckley on the Derby train.

Welcome Home to Army Specialist Don Allen, Jr. !!!

Headline News Salute to Troops Features Son of COT Employee

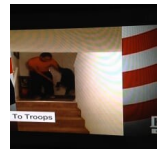


Family, friends and even the family dog are excited that Specialist Don Allen, Jr. is back home safe and sound after a year's stint in Korea. He joined the Army after graduating from Centre College.

Don Allen, Sr., the team lead over COT's Directory Services Team in the Systems Software Branch, shared the "shout out" Don Jr. got on the May 13 *Morning Express with Robin Meade* show on HLN.

Thanks to Don and Don Jr. for serving our country.

Click on the image
to the right to check
out the video.



Beckley said he has more than 11,000 songs in his digital library and the collection runs the gamut. He said it's a lot easier now to find a song that someone requests as he has a program that he can search by title, artist or key words.

"It's not like the old days when I had hundreds of records in milk crates. I had to remember words, titles, artists and then be able to find the record when someone requested it."

He protects his music collection and backs it up on three different hard drives that are kept in three different locations.

Over the years, Beckley has opened for such acts as Beyonce (when she was with the band Destiny's Child), the Backstreet Boys and others. He even performed with his band, Beckley Band, for President Jimmy Carter.

"What a tremendous experience that was. I was a young kid and I gathered my friends around and we'd play music on all sorts of cans. We got to take the train to Washington DC and then play at the White House."

Anthony plans on retiring from state government in two years with 27 years of service. He'll continue with his DJ activities and looks forward to many more years of playing music.

First \$1+ Billion in Revenue

Congrats to Revenue's Div. of Operations

April is always a busy time for the Dept. of Revenue's Div. of Operations and this one was no exception. However, it was an exception in that this is the **first time in history** that the Division processed and deposited more than \$1 billion – \$1.124 billion to be exact—into the Road Fund and other accounts.

"This is the first ever billion dollar month for the general fund," said Ed Ross, controller. "I've been here long enough to remember when total general fund receipts were less than a billion dollars for the entire year."

The Division of Operations is busy year-round processing tax returns and money for the Commonwealth. As you can imagine, come tax time, the Division is on high alert and its employees work harder than ever, putting in extra hours as needed.

Even though 93% of individuals file electronically, there are still plenty of returns sent the old fashioned way. Not only are the returns processed, Ops employees still have to open all correspondence and other mail received. During April alone, 606,000 pieces of mail were processed.

For processing to run smoothly, the Division starts planning months ahead. Temporary workers are hired during tax season. In addition, other areas of Revenue loan the Division employees to open mail. It takes a total team effort to get the job done.

"I am continually amazed at the work our staff in Operations accomplishes, not only in tax season, but all year long," said Commissioner Tom Miller. "They are diligent in doing the job right and accurately reflecting the revenues that come in. I'm also thankful that employees in other areas are willing to help when things really get going."

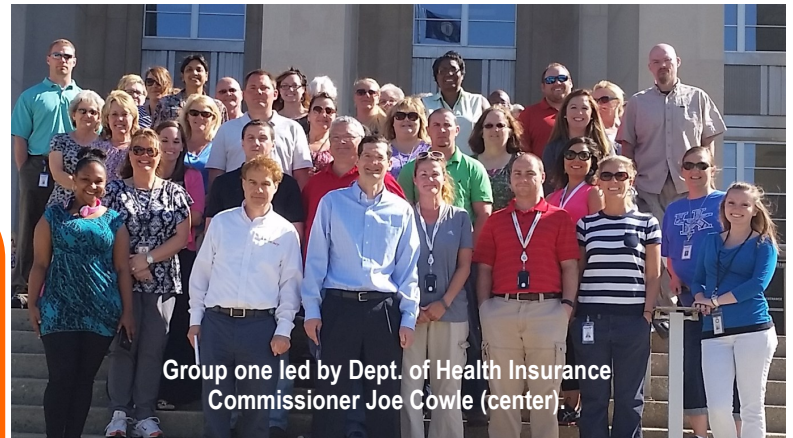
The Department of Revenue works to improve its processes and increase efficiencies. This was the first year taxpayers could file corporate returns electronically. To date, 6,800 corporate returns have been received. Each year the Division of Operations plans on adding new electronic filing options for taxpayers.

"Every month, we see more and more signs of a Kentucky economy gaining momentum by adding jobs, increasing wages and growing sales. This month's remarkable receipts report again illustrates that Kentucky's economy is not only getting stronger every month, but that Kentucky families are feeling more comfortable and are spending some of their higher wages. The rates of job creation, wage growth and sales are all trending up, and it's clear that Kentucky's economy is surging."

– Governor Beshear

Wellness Walk a Hit!

187 State Office Building employees participated in a 1.2 mile wellness walk on Tuesday, May 12



Group one led by Dept. of Health Insurance Commissioner Joe Cowle (center).



Raemel Fanning (right) and Noel Sutherland (left), two Revenue employees, each won a Fit Bug.



KENTUCKY HORSE PARK RUN CLUB

Mondays, 5-8pm
June 1-September 28

Run or walk our routes at your own pace
through the beautiful Kentucky Horse Park

Starts at the Kentucky Horse Park Visitor Center and will feature
Horse Meet & Greet • Local Craft Beers • Food Trucks
Free To Attend, Every Monday Starting June 1st



Read bike enthusiasts are also welcome
to join the BLUEGRASS CYCLING CLUB
as they make their way around
Lexington and Georgetown!

KENTUCKY HORSE PARK

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Celebrate Women's Health in May

Women Should Follow Four Rules of Good Health

In conjunction with National Women's Health Week May 10-16, the Department for Public Health (DPH) is reminding Kentucky women to be physically active, eat right, get routine preventive health screenings and avoid risky behaviors, such as smoking and excessive sun exposure.